



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

1905466 - R8 SDMS

Date: April 23, 2018
Subject: Pollution Report Initial/Final
Tattooine Industries Site
Burns/Laramie/Wyoming
To: Site File
From: Joyce Ackerman, OSC
8EPR-ER

ABSTRACT

Site #:	A8N7	Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	N/A	Response Type:	Removal Assessment
Action Memo Date:	N/A	Start Date:	6/23/2016
Removal Assess Mob. Date:	10/3/2018	Removal Assess Compl. Date:	2/23/2017

1. Background

In 2016, the U.S. EPA RCRA/CERCLA Technical Enforcement Program communicated with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ) regarding the Tattooine Industries recycling facility. The owner of the facility received a variety of wastes when it was operational including but not limited to electronic wastes such as computers and televisions, used oil, and elemental mercury. The owner was convicted of crimes unrelated to the business and is currently in prison. The facility is essentially abandoned, with a variety of wastes stored inside two buildings and outdoors. During the time of the removal assessment, there were also several semi-trailers located at the Site with e-wastes stored inside. The EPA Removal Program was requested to provide assistance in assessing the wastes at the Site for a possible removal action.

The WY DEQ conducted inspections of the facility and noted that there were several containers of elemental mercury and mercury-containing devices stored in three refrigerators inside one of the warehouses. Due to the quantities of elemental mercury being stored and the evidence of trespassing, the EPA Removal Program conducted an emergency response to remove the mercury from the facility on June 30, 2016.

2. Site Evaluation

The EPA OSC and START contractor returned to the Site on October 3, 2016, to conduct a more thorough assessment of the remaining wastes at the Site. The team was

accompanied by a representative from the WY DEQ and an officer from the local Sheriff's department to clear the buildings of possible vagrants.

There are two warehouses at the Site and, at the time of the assessment, nine semi-trailers were staged at the Site. There were no security features such as fences or alarms at the Site. There were broken windows at the Site, indicating possible trespassers. Power has been turned off in the buildings. The WY DEQ official reported that since the previous visit to the building for the mercury emergency response, there was an additional broken window at the main warehouse and the secondary warehouse had been broken into.

The OSC and START contractor walked the perimeter of the Site to inventory and estimate the quantities of waste staged outdoors. There were piles of televisions with cathode-ray tube (CRT) screens, which likely contain leaded glass, and some piles of broken glass. There was a small pallet with fluorescent light ballasts. The labels on the ballasts did not state "No PCBs," so the ballasts likely contain polychlorinated biphenyls. There were three aboveground storage tanks, two of which were labeled "Jet A," probably from the facility's previous reported use as a helicopter maintenance facility. The other aboveground storage tank was labeled "Propane." EPA and START did not attempt to open these tanks. There was an underground storage tank at the Site. START opened the lid of the tank and discovered that it was a septic tank.

Approximately 15 drums labeled "Salvage" were located outdoors. START opened all these drums; most were empty or contained nothing of significance.

Inside the main warehouse, fourteen drums and smaller containers were found. START opened all the containers and conducted hazard-categorization of the contents. Most were nearly empty. One 55-gallon drum was full and contained a liquid which proved to be combustible during the hazard-categorization field test. A sample was taken from this drum and submitted for laboratory analysis. The lab results showed low levels of PCE (1.36 mg/L), and lower levels of toluene, xylene, and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene.

There was a box of smoke detectors stored inside the warehouse. START scanned the detectors with a radiation meter and no elevated readings were observed.

There were Gaylord boxes of broken glass inside the main warehouse. START took a sample of broken glass from the Gaylord boxes and from the piles of glass outdoors. Both samples failed the TCLP for lead.

The main warehouse also contained CRT-style televisions, computers, and CRT computer monitors.

The team entered the secondary warehouse which was filled with CRT-style televisions, computers, and CRT computer monitors. At the time of the assessment, there were nine semi-trailers staged at the Site, all filled with CRT computer monitors and televisions. START estimated the secondary warehouse contained approximately 2111 cubic yards of

e-waste and the semi-trailers contained approximately 852 cubic yards of e-waste.

The facility is very remote, located approximately 20 miles east of the city of Cheyenne. It is bounded by Interstate 80 on the south, and farmland/ranchland on all other sides. The closest residences include a house 1/3 of a mile to the north and a house 1/2 mile to the west.

At the conclusion of the removal assessment, the remoteness of the facility, lack of nearby receptors, and nature and matrix of the wastes indicated that a time-critical removal action was not warranted at the Site.

After the removal assessment was complete, the WY DEQ reported that there was a fire at the main warehouse in April 2017 set by a trespasser. The semi-trailers have reportedly been removed from the Site. The EPA Removal Program has not conducted any further assessment at the Site since the fire.







